

TILLANDSIA ADAMSII

A New Jamaican Species

Robert W. Read

During the preparation of "The Flowering Plants of Jamaica" I had the good fortune of working with its author. While reviewing various keys to the bromeliads it was my pleasure to make certain suggested changes and additions as a result of my own field studies. One problem, also noted by Dr. Lyman B. Smith, was in need of further more intensive study, but neither of us was able to work with it at the time. Now, as a result of a careful reevaluation of Tillandsia canescens Swartz I am privileged to describe a new species from Jamaica named in honor of Dr. C. Dennis Adams, botanist-author, with regrets that it could not have been included in his "Flora".

Jamaica supports a pronounced endemic bromeliad flora (30.7% or 82 out of a total of 267 species), therefore it should not be surprising that one more endemic species can be added. As with other recently described endemic taxa, T. adamsii appears to be restricted to shaded limestone crags (rarely epiphytic) in the Cockpit Country of western Jamaica.

Although most closely resembling T. canescens, T. adamsii also has certain characteristics in common with T. valenzuelana. Tillandsia adamsii is readily distinguished from the latter by having dark brown, abruptly expanded leaf sheaths and a distinctly inflated pseudobulbous rosette. From T. canescens, T. adamsii is distinguished by the more pronounced pseudobulbous rosette, with the leaf sheaths much darker brown, and the scape bracts lacking blade-like appendages. From both species T. adamsii can be readily separated by the outwardly arched and spreading floral bracts which are twice the length of the sepals - at least the lowermost ones - at anthesis.

TILLANDSIA ADAMSII R. W. Read; species nova: Subg. Platystachys. T. canescenti Swartz affinis sed inflorescentia simplici, bracteis floralibus multo longioribus et arcuatis extrinsecus, bracteis scapi exappendiculatis et vaginis foliorum atrofusis ab ea recedens.

TYPE: JAMAICA; C. D. Adams 12,850.

Plants stemless, less than 35 cm high; leaves numerous, up to 24 cm long, the blades linear-triangular, but abruptly enlarged at the sheath, forming a slightly inflated pseudobulbous rosette; leaf blades up to 1 cm broad at the apex of the sheath, densely and minutely appressed-cinereous-lepidote throughout; sheaths dark brown appressed-lepidote, broadly ovate, 2-4 cm long, 2-3 cm wide; inflorescence simple, about 4-8 flowered, greatly exceeding the leaves, the flowers arranged distichously;

scape erect, slender; scape-bracts erect, imbricate, slightly longer than the internodes, mostly, if not entirely, lacking blade-like appendages, the lowermost often with inconspicuous, tiny, linear, blades up to 1.5 cm long, the bracts pink or reddish, those near the base lepidote, becoming glabrate to glabrous apically on the inflorescence, where they almost blend into the floral-bracts in form and color; floral-bracts ecarinate, glabrous, pink to reddish at anthesis, 2-2.8 cm long, twice to three times the length of the internodes, greatly exceeding the sepals, not imbricate, nor obscuring the slightly flexuous rachis, the apex curving back slightly, giving the fertile portion of the spike a distinctive flared effect, often sterile apically; flowers subsessile, erect; sepals not carinate, symmetric, glabrous, about 1.0-1.3 cm long, to 3.5 mm wide, apically acute; petals magenta to lavender-rose, to about 3 cm long, acute, narrowly oblanceolate, meeting basally; stamens exerted at anthesis; anthers versatile, lobed basally, appearing tridentate apically; ovary trigonal to 1.1 cm long, ovules restricted to the lowermost 1 mm, upper portion empty; style 2.5-3 cm long, exerted, 3-parted apically for about 1.5 mm; stigmas very slightly flared, hardly distinguishable; capsule cylindric, abruptly acuminate, 2.0-2.4 cm long.

Distribution: Jamaica, Parishes of Trelawny and St. James, on shaded limestone crags and ledges or occasionally epiphytic, 609-670 m elev.; endemic.

Specimens examined: St. James: White Rock Hill, 1 mile south of Sweet Water, 10 March 1956, G. R. Proctor 11743 (IJ; Photo US). Trelawny: Island View Hill, Wilson Valley district, 1.5 miles north of Warsop, 26 June 1960, G. R. Proctor 21334 (IJ; US); $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles N.W. of Troy, 8 May 1966, C. D. Adams 12,850 (US, HOLOTYPE).

Plate I



Type Specimen

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